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~~CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP~~

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Syria

DATE: 25X1A6a

SUBJECT Contracts for Installation of
Syrian Telephone and Radio System

INFO. [REDACTED]

DIST. ~~XX~~ June 1947

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SUPPLEMENT [REDACTED]

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ORIGIN [REDACTED]

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1. The ambitious project of the Syrian Government to have a government-owned and operated automatic telephone system and radio broadcasting station installed was previously reported. The Syrian Government had requested all companies interested in obtaining the contract to submit their bids by 1 March. According to latest reports all bids were in by 1 April, and by 1 May the Government had decided to accept, in part, the offers of five companies: one Swedish, one Czechoslovakian, and three British. Offers tendered by two American companies were turned down because the companies insisted on payment in dollars and refused to be bound by the Syrian specifications for installation.
2. Representatives of two of the British firms that received contracts are said to have given assurances that they will get the much-desired American equipment in any case. These men reportedly remarked that "this is what the American loan is for." Source regards this as a good joke on the Americans and considers it a typical example of U.S. "benevolent stupidity."

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